



United States Department of Interior

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LOWER GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESOURCES OFFICE

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT January 2003



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LAKE STURGEON RESTORATION

Emily sent adult sturgeon genetic samples collected from the Niagara River and Lake Erie to Amy Welsh (UC-Davis) for analysis. This work is part of a basin-wide project to survey lake sturgeon genetics and is funded by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust. Emily also provided a progress report on this project to Tracy Hill (Alpena FRO) for inclusion in the basin-wide semi-annual report.

Emily reviewed and summarized the 2001-2002 Niagara River lake sturgeon data for the Central Great Lakes Bi-National Lake Sturgeon workgroup report, and provided a summary of our activities to the group.

GREAT LAKES BASIN ECOSYSTEM TEAM (GLBET)

Sandra, Emily and Chris participated in a conference call of the GLBET Executive Committee (1/6). Participants discussed the successful workshops led by the Sturgeon and Island Committees.

LAKE ERIE

Betsy, Tim Johnson (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources), and Nick Preston (Consultant) submitted the completion report, *Development of a Lakewide Electronic Database for Lower Trophic Level Monitoring in Lake Erie*, to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Development of this ACCESS database will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of data entry and analysis for all the partners working on the Lower Trophic Level Assessment Program.

NIAGARA RIVER

The Friends of the Buffalo and Niagara Rivers held a joint meeting at the LGLFRO (1/23). Ten members were in attendance.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Coordination

Sandra and Mike G. continued to work with Ohio and Pennsylvania Sea Grant agency representatives to advance plans for the Northeast Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) training session. Sandra and Mike G. led a conference call with the planning group to discuss the draft agenda, invited speakers, and the draft announcement to accompany the registration form (1/15). Sandra and Mike G. met with Dan Kuzmeskus (Chief of Hatcheries) at the Regional Office in Hadley, MA to discuss HACCP plans to date, logistics,

hatchery tour options and staff availability for opening remarks (1/29).

Sandra and Mike G. attended the Region 5 Invasive Species Team meeting in Hadley, MA (1/28). The meeting brought together representatives from all the Service programs. Participants discussed current activities, opportunities, needs, and support for a regional Invasive Species Coordinator to work in cooperation with all the programs and to lead efforts with partners. A special session was held to discuss *Phragmites* issues and concerns throughout the region.

Sandra and Mike G. drafted the 2003 Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Scope of Work for submission to regional office staff and Branch of Invasive Species staff at the Washington office.

Sandra drafted text to be included in a response to Congressional staff regarding federal funding opportunities through the Service for aquatic invasive species prevention and control. The response was collated by regional office staff.

HABITAT EVALUATION/RESTORATION

Betsy and Emily met with Gary Neuderfer (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) to discuss results and plans for the Rochester Embayment contaminant sampling project (1/30).

FISH PASSAGE

Chris, Emily and Mike S. attended the NY Chapter American Fishery Society meeting in Canandaigua, NY (1/8-10). The theme of this year's meeting was "Restoring Natural Flow Regimes: Dam Removal as a Tool in River Restoration." Chris gave the presentation, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Passage Program: A Voluntary Program for River Restoration*. Emily volunteered to be the Program Chair for the 2004 meeting.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (FEDERAL LANDS)

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

Betsy and Tony Wagner (Buffalo Audubon Society) began winter bird of prey spot mapping

surveys (1/2, 1/6, 1/13, and 1/27). The target species are the short-eared owl and the northern harrier.

Fort Drum

Mike W. and Mike S. conducted diet analyses of fish collected, including rock bass, largemouth bass, pumpkinseed, and brown bullhead, from Remington Pond in August, 2002. Their ages were also determined using scale imaging. In addition, a subsample of each fish was sent to an independent laboratory for contaminant analysis.

Mike W. submitted the proposal, *Assessment of the Fish Community and Aquatic Habitat in Black Creek, Fort Drum, New York*, for funding consideration to the Ft. Drum Fish & Wildlife Program Manager. The focus of this project will be on the brook and brown trout fishery in the creek and if approved, will begin in May, 2003.

GIS AND DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Emily updated the Great Lakes Lake Sturgeon Tributary Database and GIS with information gathered at the December 2002 workshop and distributed the database to the contributors for further additions and corrections.

OTHER

Kofi and Mike W. attended the National Fisheries Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. (1/21-25). Kofi gave the presentation, *Friends Group: Volunteers on a Mission*. Kofi also received an award from the Director of the Service, Dr. Steve Williams, for his leadership in conserving America's fisheries.

This monthly report provides a brief, in-house report on recent activities, issues or events of the Lower Great Lakes Office. Its contents should not be used or cited elsewhere in any way without first contacting our staff. This is to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information.